



The Trail Blazer

OFFICIAL ORGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION · OAKLAND, CALIF.

Volume 5

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Number 5



PICTURES TAKEN OF TRAIL RIDE, APRIL 14 — Upper: (left to right) BOB SIBERT, TED SIBERT, FRANK COLBOURN, JR., FRED ANDERSON, MRS. FRANK COLBOURN, JR., OPAL BROWN, DON SIBERT, ARCHIE BROWN (kneeling). Lower Left: LORETTA COSCA AND POPPY; Lower right: FRED ANDERSON AND CARMEL HIMMELMAN.

Coming Event: Field Day & Picnic, June 23rd

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Trails Committee Report

Recently, Arthur Denton, Howard Robinson, and Vern Chappell of the Trails Committee, and the bulldozer and tractor man, spent two afternoons riding over the trails making plans for new ones and improvement of old. The result was immediate action, which has resulted in many things new! What took place can best be described by "riding with us" over these trails.

We started from the Cross Roads and rode down hill toward the Pinto Ranch, Wildwood, and Wagon Wheel. The trail is very rugged and traverses what could aptly be called a rock pile. We retraced our steps and planned a new trail leading down through the canyon just west of this area. There was a narrow cow trail here, which has now been widened to four feet and contains little if any rock.

Arriving at the intersection of Redwood Road and the Diamond B Ranch Road, we turned to the left and rode toward Tom Bacon Ranch, turning to the right along the trail and eventually down into Dark Canyon. While riding down, toward the creek crossing, we planned a re-grading of the trail, making the descent more gradual and the turns much wider. Close to the creek, the trail was found to be in poor condition due to the ravages of the winter winds and rain. We planned the removal of a large stump of a tree, and two logs spanning the creek which blocked the trail. (All this work has been completed by now!)

Crossing the creek, we continued our ride up the trail on the other side and turned to left along the trail leading through Windy Gulch towards Portuguese Flat. Arriving at the Flat, we turned left again, rode through the Flat, and along the trail leading north which brought us to the Bacon Gate. As we crossed the creek here, (the trail turns left toward Bacon Gate and right towards Upper Flat) we turned to the right and took the trail leading through Upper Flat and eventually to the Beacon Trail near the Shrine Rangers Barn. This trail has been little more than a series of cow trails leading through the canyon and up the side of the hill. We planned a new trail here and laid it out as we rode along. The result is a new wide trail leading through the canyon to Upper Flat, turning there to the left and up the hill, circling to the right at the top and continuing along to the Beacon Trail. The ascent is not too steep and the ride through this area has been much improved. The trail is completed now, with the exception of the gate to be installed, replacing the old "Portuguese Gate" at the Beacon Trail.

From here we rode West on Beacon Trail to the Crossroads. Arriving there, we planned to meet at the same spot again Friday afternoon for a ride through the Park along Bridge View Trail.

Friday, we rode North toward the Park along the trail paralleling Skyline Boulevard, and eventually turned away from Skyline to our left and on to Sunset Trail. We followed the Sunset Trail through the Park until it rejoins Skyline Boulevard across the road from the brown frame Ranger's shack which is the auxiliary fire station. The Bridge View Trail leads off of Sunset Trail at this spot. Few of our riders seem to have enjoyed the scenic beauty of this trail, possibly because they do not know its starting point or where

it leads to. Its beginning is just below Skyline Boulevard, about 50 yards, across the road from the fire house just mentioned. It is a wagon-width trail, somewhat paralleling Skyline Boulevard and leading in the general direction of Piedmont Pines.

We rode along Bridge View Trail until it emerges on Castle Drive, Piedmont Pines. Here we turned to the left or downhill on Castle Drive. (Castle Drive is not to be crossed at any time!) We rode along Castle Drive for about 200 feet and then branched off to the left, behind the houses on Castle Drive. This trail continues downhill, skirting the north rim of the Park all the way, and eventually turns to the left again and back into the Park. After continuing along the trail for about 100 yards from this point, one may look down from the high vantage point and see the intersection of Mountain Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue, the Green Barn, Don and Anns, and Happy Hobby Stables. The trail bends around the hill here and continues along a gradual descent deep into the Park, joining the main trail through the heart of the Park (back of the Woodminster Bowl) and to the playground, just below the intersection of Joaquin Miller Road and Robinson Drive.

We planned a general re-grading and widening of this entire trail from Castle Drive, around the rim of the Park, and back to the Bowl. The tractor is working in this area now, and the work should be completed by the time this issue of the Trail Blazer reaches you. Part of the trail is within private property fringing the Park. We may not be able to do as much grading as we wish to do in this area, but we will do enough to at least clearly mark the trail.

We finished our ride at the Playground and parted company. Boss Arthur Denton plans another Trailblazing ride soon, with promises of more improvements by mid-summer. That's all for now.

TRAILS COMMITTEE.

Editor's Note: Arthur Denton and his busy Trails Committee have been very busy carrying on their improvements as planned. Thus far . . .

1. New (no trespassing) signs have been delivered and tacked up in conspicuous places along trails.
2. New bridges have been completed — one in Windy Gulch, and one on the Stream Trail. New planks have been placed in the bridge leading off of Sunset Trail in the park.
3. New gates have been delivered — they will be installed as soon as possible . . . one in a spot leading off of Beacon Trail close to the Shrine Rangers Barn, and one on the trail circling the hill south of the Devil's Punch Bowl and then to Portuguese Flat.

FLASH! FROM NEW YORK: Mr. G. S. Paul is in the East on business — so that's why DeNeze is looking so sad these days. But it won't be long now — the Pauls expect to be back about the first of June! . . . The Ed Hedges recently bought in Joaquin Miller Heights District and plan on building a stable for their horses! . . . The Segarini's of 3343 Rubin Drive have added another horse to their stable.

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Roving Reporter

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO: Twenty-four Rangers and their wives enjoyed a barn dance at the Shrine Temple April 24th — over 400 people were present, and Frank Kelly, Chairman of the event, was delighted no end! Winners of the prize for the best dressed Western couple were: Mrs. Bobbie Bennett and Bill Ludolph . . . Have you seen the new piano in the Ranger's Club Room? It's just the thing to encourage quartet singing! There are several new horses in the San Antonio Barns — Jack Bennett has a new brown and white pinto; Roscoe Trayler is now the proud owner of CHICO (formerly owned by Bill Ludolph); Mrs. Frances Older has a new black and white pinto; and Mrs. Fisher has a new pinto named SKIPPY . . . Frank Kelly was a guest of the Paso Robles Trail Riders on a four-day trek held recently. Frank's horse BUTCH got into some deep water while crossing a stream—but much to Frank's delight, BUTCH swam across in fine style! Too bad the lunch got a little wet! . . . Just heard that Ruth Ransome's mare FLIGHT is the mother of a nice Buckskin colt — they've named the little guy ANGEL.

CRESSMOUNT: Crop and Saddle had a supper ride in the hills Wednesday night, May 1st. Supper was served in the stables after the ride — Miss Espenshade, advisor of Crop and Saddle, helped prepare the supper! . . . Bit and Spur entertained servicemen from Oak Knoll with numerous gymkhana events and a supper at their Annual Horsepitality Gymkhana—the boys really had fun! . . . New Bit and Spur officers for 1945-1946 are: Toni Vidor, President; Sydney Peppard, Secretary; Joanne Rosser, Treasurer . . . Date for the Shongehon Horse Show was set for June 9th, at the recent meeting held at the home of Joy Huston in Alameda. Committee heads were appointed as follows: Trophies, Joyce Gabelman; Tickets, Pat Brandeis; Boxes, Joanne Humphrey; Brush Jumps, Carola Jory; and Publicity, Mary Dunson! . . . An exchange ride with San Mateo was had on May 5th, with thirty riders from Cressmount (Shongehon, Bit and Spur, and Sunday Morning Jump Class) making the trip. After a grand two-hour ride in the hills, a delicious lunch was served in the Club House—and a program of gymkhana events followed. A grand time was had by all.

PINTO RANCH: Charles Hall is now stabling his thoroughbred Beachwood at the Pinto Ranch! . . . The Blessed Events, this month are many. The Pinto Ranch colt crop consists of five new Pintos — Harold Cummin's Stud FLASH is the proud pappy of one of them. . . . Ted Halstrom's Pinto mare SQUAW had a sorrel and white Pinto colt recently — and Ted's little grand-daughter Pat Ruckavina appropriately named the colt PA-POOSE . . . Jack Stimson Loy's mare GINGER had a buckskin colt which he named SMOKY! . . . By the way, the Pinto Ranch is looking forward to seeing Frank Ruckavina home soon — he's in Japan.

HERE AND THERE: Lois O'Donnell, daughter of our horsey banker on 74th Avenue and MacArthur Blvd., has brought her black gelding, RUM DUM DUM in from pasture and expects to have a busy summer. The beautiful animal is kept at the Roy Schoonover Barns in Rifle Lane! . . . At the Oak-

The Roving Reporter (continued)

land Riding Academy, Ivan Wegener is taking the trails on MURPHY, a buckskin gelding . . . Mike Farrell, who returns from the army, is enjoying rides again on FELICE, his seven year old Palomino mare, which he keeps temporarily at Pleasanton.

LEONA STABLES: The Leona Riders gathered Sunday, April 28th, at Carey's Orchard for a picnic and games. Under the direction of Earl Hansen, about 25 members rode in a drill and put on an excellent program. With coffee, salad, chicken and rolls served by the committee, and songs and horse chat, a good time was had by all . . . The regular meeting of the Leona Riders was held at the home of Mrs. Studley on May 10. After the business meeting, a program was given which included a talk on the Thoroughbred horse by Ray Ferreria, discussion of the Palomino horse by George Goldt, and discussion of the aids in horseback riding by Earl Hansen. Norma and Deanne Burton brought a guest for the evening, George Lubin, of Maryland. Doughnuts and coffee were served by Millicent Goldt. The next meeting, the second Friday in June, will be held at the Sequoia Lodge.

That's all for now!

West Coast Hunter Trials

Horsemen and women in the Bay Area made up the crowd at the May 12 running of the West Coast Hunter Trials which were marked by calm and steady performance of horses and riders. The trials were directed by Miss Cornelia Cress. The judges were Col. R. S. Lovell, U.S.V.C., Fort Mason, San Francisco, Lt. James Martin, U.S.A., and Lt. Woodrow Hansen, U.S.A. The field judges and clerks were: Virginia Abel, Morgan Washburn, Lorraine Harris, Margaret Watt, Wallace Nall III, Eleanor Fox, E.C.N. Hawkins, and Patricia Nuttall. Time keeper was Elena Lagorio. Ribbon clerks were Sue Boillot and Margo Brewer. Ringmaster was Ed Peabody of San Mateo. The committee and officials enjoyed a noon buffet luncheon at the Cress home which was also attended by Mrs. Lovell, Mrs. Peabody, and Miss Kay Rhodes.

Charlotte Lochner and Joy Houston were in charge of the Shongehon drill team which served refreshments from the tavern and supplied the couriers running along the course. Pat Brandes arranged programs, Pat Gorie the publicity, Elizabeth Harrison the entries, Mary Lou Hutton was co-ordinator, Winifred Johnson the tickets, Mrs. Charles Logue the trophies, Willis Nuttall public address, and James Ormond the arrangements.

The results of the trials are: Qualified Division: Sun Truder, Barbara Bechtel, won the championship; in a three-phase event, horse 175 points, road hack 225 points, and cross country 600 points; over a 2-mile course with 19 jumps, time 6½ minutes.

Unqualified Division: championship, Royal Robin, James Ormond; reserve Toy Storm, Sandra Logue; over 1½ mile course with 17 jumps, 6½ minutes.

Green Division: championship, Buddy, Maureen Dooher, of San Mateo; reserve Whisk-along owned by Mrs. J. S. Grepe, ridden by Jane Wood of San Mateo; over a 1-mile course, with 14 jumps, 3½ minutes.

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Horse test: Unqualified: 1. Big Rock, Mary Lou Hutton. 2. Royal Robin, James Ormond. 3. Toy Storm, Sandra Logue. 4. Mt. Helix, Janice Kenyon of Hayward.

Green Hunters: 1. Wake Island, Nancy Wood of San Mateo. 2. Post N' Rail, Bert Schartle of San Mateo. 3. Whisk-along Mrs. J. S. Grepe. 4. Kyack, Elizabeth Harrison.

Road Hacks: Unqualified: 1. Royal Robin, James Ormond. 2. Toy Storm, Sandra Logue. 3. Big Rock, Mary Lou Hutton. 4. Billy the Bold, Bert Schartle.

Green: 1. Kyack, Elizabeth Harrison. 2. General MacArthur, Beverly Daniels of San Mateo. 3. Gray Bird, Ethel Todd Karthall. 4. Buddy, Maureen Dooher.

Cross country: Unqualified: 1. Toy Storm, Sandra Logue. 2. Royal Robin, James Ormond. 3. Big Rock, Mary Lou Hutton. 4. Mt. Helix, Janice Kenyon. 5. Billy the Bold, Bert Schartle.

Green: 1. General MacArthur, Beverly Daniels. 2. Wake Island, Nancy Wood. 3. Buddy, Maureen Dooher. 4. Gray Bird, Ethel Todd Karthall.

Other riders and horses turning in creditable performances were: Bobby Sox ridden by Mrs. R. Beyler; Sir Kipling ridden by Don Schwimley; Whisk-along ridden by Jane Wood; Kyack ridden by Elizabeth Harrison; Chocolate Soldier ridden by Willis Nuttall.

Bad luck prevented some horses entering the trials: Sierra Sun owned by Sam Register, Jr.; Blind Date and Promulgator owned by Muriel Butler; Golden Blonde and Burma Road owned by Sylvia King Dawson; Billy the Kid owned by Selma Piazzi; Cover Girl and Idiot's Delight owned by Norma and Deanne Burton; Marguerite Phelps' two Thoroughbreds; Elsie Mesquita's Lady Weston; Charles Hall's Beechwood; Bob Logan's Announcer. But all the horse lovers hastened at eating places after the trials to talk it over: the K-9, the Steak House, and Don and Ann's had "horsey" tables.

MISS GRAHAM'S NEW ADDRESS

An orchid to Bud Smith for his kindness in extending a helping hand to Miss Graham's Riding and Boarding Stables. Miss Graham's property was recently sold, and trying to find a new location these days is truly a problem! Believe us! But thanks to Bud, Miss Graham is now temporarily located at 6291 REDWOOD ROAD, and the telephone number is still the same familiar KELlogg 2-9789. So ride on, you Graham fans!

LIVESTOCK SHOW TO OPEN NOVEMBER 16

The Grand National Livestock Exposition will open as scheduled, November 16, Nion R. Tucket, president of Agricultural District 1A, announced recently.

It will be held from Nov. 16 to 24 in San Francisco.

Dedication of Trails

The Charles Tate and William Barnett Trails were officially dedicated on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12th. A large turn out of riders assembled at the crossroads and rode in a body to the Piedmont Barn. Both trails converge there and it was an ideal spot to hold the ceremonies.

The Shrine Rangers, led by Capt. Fred Bemis, were at the head of the column as it entered the Piedmont Barn Yard, and following closely by were the M.H.A. riders. Next in line were cars containing Mrs. Tate and friends, and Mrs. Barnett and friends.

Honorary flag bearers, Ted Dryer, and Bill Ludolph from the Rangers, and Harold Knudsen and Archie Brown representing the M.H.A. formed mounted in front of the microphone, as Past-President Fred E. Anderson conducted the dedication services. At a given signal, the trail markers were unveiled by Loretta and Joyce Cosca, and Barbara Jaeger and Jack Richards' granddaughter Marlene. Both groups then marched to the microphone and presented the black and white banners lettered M.H.A. to Mrs. Tate and Mrs. Barnett. The ceremony concluded with a song by Jim Black, Harold Cummins, and Walt Powers. As a final tribute to old and dear friends, the entire Shrine Rangers Patrol rode over both trails. They made a beautiful sight as they mounted the crest of the ridge, banners flying, Pinto horses prancing, and colorful uniforms flashing in the late morning sun. The ride ended at the Orchard in Redwood Regional Park.

The event marks another great day on the calendar of events for the year. The dedication was planned jointly by the Trails and Activities Committees. It seems that in giving special mention and thanks to those who worked to make this splendid event possible, the same names come to the fore that have been so often mentioned in the past. The faithful service and untiring energy of these good friends make the M.H.A. what it is—the greatest organization of horsemen in the State. Special thanks should be given to our old standbys Fred E. Anderson and Jack Richards, who planned the entire event. Fred Anderson did a splendid job as speaker of the day, pinch-hitting for President Frank Colbourn, Jr., who was confined to his home with a back injury. Elsa and Gus Himmelman, those Trojans of work, worked all day serving coffee, hot dogs, beer and soft drinks to our members at the picnic grounds. They were assisted by Florence and Stan Cosca, and Vern Chappell. Special thanks should be given Stan Cosca, who furnished the hot dogs, buns, beer, and cokes, and then turned the entire profit of \$20.00 over to the M.H.A. Hard-working Jack Tann hauled all the food to the park; Wes Adams reserved the space for the picnic, erected the tables, and furnished the fire wood; Mrs. Archie Brown made the drapes for the trail markers, and Stan Cosca furnished the loud speaking system for the ceremony. And so it goes—hard working people, operating in close harmony and doing a swell job.

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SUPERIOR COURT APPOINTS OFFICERS

The newly appointed M.H.A. committee for the "Prevention of Cruelty to Animals," headed by Jack Richards, Chairman, reports that a patrol of six officers, appointed by Superior Court Judge Ezra Decoto, has been functioning for over six weeks in the Hill District. The M.H.A. voted at one of its Board Meetings to allow each officer \$5.00 per month for gasoline. And the men are certainly making good use of this allotment! Problems which have been growing more and more serious during the war years, are at last being corrected. Yes, these officers are truly doing a great job of straightening out the many problems which have been brought to the attention of the M.H.A. Individuals with high-powered rifles are being checked for the misuse of firearms, and individuals with vacuum minds are being checked on the abuse of horses. Yes, they're really cracking down on the "problem children" in the hills! **THREE CHEERS** for the newly appointed committee.

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